

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 INR-10 SS-15 SP-02 L-03
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APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE

-----113166 122131Z /73

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO FLASH

UNCLAS STATE 175936

FOR AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN, JA, US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF US-JAPAN MTN TALKS

FOLLOWING WAS REPORTED UPI WASHINGTON RECEIVED LATE WEDNES-
DAY AFTERNOON WASHINGTON TIME:

BEGIN TEXT PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRADE REPRESENTATIVE SAID
TODAY THE TOKYO ROUND NEGOTIATORS WILL REPORT AT THE BONN
SUMMIT "VERY SIGNIFICANT" PROGRESS WITH A NUMBER OF COUN-
TRIES ON TRADE LIBERALIZATION - BUT NOT WITH JAPAN.

JUST THREE DAYS BEFORE THE WESTERN ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN
BONN, ROBERT STRAUSS DELIBERATELY EXCLUDED THE JAPANESE
IN HIS REPORT THAT PRE-SUMMIT PROGRESS ON REDUCING TRADE
BARRIERS HAS BEEN MADE THIS WEEK WITH THE EUROPEAN COM-
MUNITY, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, NEW ZEALAND AND SEVERAL DEVELOP-
ING NATIONS.

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WHEN ASKED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IF HE KNEW HE HAD OMITTED
JAPAN, STRAUSS SNAPPED A SINGLE "YES". PRESSED ON THE
POINT, HE SAID "IT WOULD BE INACCURATE TO CHARACTERIZE
PROGRESS WITH JAPAN AS I DID WITH THE OTHERS".

HE SAID HE HAD NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO MEET AGAIN WITH

JAPANESE NEGOTIATORS BEFORE FLYING TO BONN TOMORROW TO
BE PRESENT WHEN CARTER ARRIVES IN WEST GERMANY.

STRAUSS SAID HE WAS EXPRESSING THE VIEWS OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY AS WELL AS WASHINGTON'S POSITION IN NOTING
PROGRESS BETWEEN THEMSELVES BUT NOT WITH JAPAN.

THIS, OTHER OFFICIALS SAID, REFLECTED THE U.S.-COMMUNITY
LINE THAT JAPANESE OFFERS TO BUY MORE FROM OTHERS BY
REDUCING IMPORT BARRIERS WHILE SELLING LESS SO AS TO
REDUCE ITS MASSIVE TRADE SURPLUS HAVE BEEN INSUFFICIENT.

JAPAN, THESE OFFICIALS SAID, HAS FAILED TO IMPROVE IN
ANY MEANINGFUL WAY ITS ORIGINAL OFFERS ON REDUCING BOTH
TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF TRADING BARRIERS.

TOKYO ROUND OFFICIALS SAID THE UNRELENTING JAPANESE
ATTITUDE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE RAISED BY OTHER LEADERS
AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT.

STRAUSS SAID THAT AS FAR AS THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY,
AUSTRALIA, CANADA, NEW ZEALAND AND SOME DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES ARE CONCERNED, THE TOKYO ROUND NEGOTIATORS
WILL BE ABLE TO REPORT TO THE SUMMIT THAT MOST OF THE
POLITICAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE IN GENEVA ON AN
EVENTUAL TRADE LIBERALIZATION PACKAGE. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER
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NNN

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